7.

THE POPISH PLOT,

Taken out of ſeveral

DEPOSITIONS

Made and Sworn before the

PARLIAMENT.

THE Deſign in general was (when all other means failed) by Fire and Sword ſo perfectly to reduce all his Majeſty's Dominions to the *Roman* Religion, that no toleration ſhould be given to any *Proteſtant*, but all ſhould have been extirpated both Root and Branch.

The Chief DESIGNERS were

1. The Pope. (2.) Cardinal *Howard*. (3.) *Johannes Paulus de Oliva*, General of the *Jeſuits* (4.) *Pedro Feronymo de Cordubo*, Provincial of the *Jeſuits* at *Caſtile*. (5.) *Le Cheeſe*, a *Jeſuits* Confeſſor to the *French* King. (6.) The Provincial of the *Jeſuits* in *England*. (7.) The *Benedictine Monks* at the *Savoy*, and other Seminary Prieſts and *Jeſuits*.

The Work was ſo great, and in their Apprehenſion ſo glorious, that the moſt Eminent of the Popiſh Clergy in *Europe* were engaged in it; it cannot be ſaid to be an Act or Contrivance of a few particular perſons, but an unanimous act of their whole Church, and ſo let it be Recorded to their everlaſting ſhame. The Pope in the Congregation *de propaganda fide*, held about *December* 1677, declared his Majeſty's Dominions to be S. *Peter's* Patrimony, as forfeited to him for the Hereſie of Prince and People, and ſo to be diſpoſed of as he pleaſeth: To this end he appoints Cardinal *Howard*, as his Legate, to take poſſeſſion of *England* in his name: He alſo conſtituteth new Arch-Biſhops, Biſhops, and other Dignitaries for all or moſt of the places in *England*, removing all the Biſhops, in poſſeſſion, from their preſent Dignities.

Johannes Paulus de Oliva, General of the *Jeſuits* at *Rome*, gives direction to the Provincial of the *Jeſuits* in *London*, how to proceed in this Affair; where note the College, called the Society *de propoganda fide*, conſiſts of about 350 perſons: the Prieſts in *England* are in number about 1800.

At a Conſult held *May* 1678, by the Provincial and Society of *Jeſuits*, they declare the King an Heretick, they depoſe him and condemn him to be murdered. At this, and ſome other Conſults held before and after that Month, they appoint the chief Officers of State, as the Lord Chancellour, the Lord High Treaſurer, the Lord Privy Seal, the Secretaries of State, *&c.* They alſo conſtitute the Officers of War both by Sea and Land, as the Lord General, the Lieutenant General, *&c.* Collonels, Captains, and other Officers. Here note, the greateſt part of thoſe Officers were *French* and *Iriſh*, and not one *Engliſh* Commander was appointed for the Fleet. Their Army ſhould have conſiſted of 1800 Officers, and 20000 common Souldiers liſted in and about *London*. Theſe they gave out were enough to cut the Throats of 10000 Proteſtants; eſpecially being taken upon a ſurprize, and themſelves being aſſiſted by the *French*. *Grove*, *Smith*, and others were appointed by the College to go from houſe to houſe to inform the chief *Papiſts* in and about *London* of theſe intentions, that they may have their approbation, which they call the conſent of the people. To carry on this or any ſuch like Deſign, the Society of *Jeſuits* in *England* have 70000*l. per Annum* Eſtate in Lands, managed by their Truſtees. They have 10000*l.* in ready Money employed at intereſt by Scriveners, and uſed in Trade by Graziers, Jobbers, and Bankers. *Johannes Paulus de Oliva* ſupplies them with 11000*l.* from *Rome*, *Pedro Feronymo de Cordubo*, Provincial of the *Jeſuits* at *Caſtile*, contributes 10000*l.* more. *Le Cheeſe*, the *French* Kings

Kings Confessor, advances 10000 l. besides several considerable Sums given to *Coleman* by Forreign Ministers of State. For the more speedy effecting of this, several persons are set on work in several ways to accomplish it to whom huge Sums of ready Money were given in hand, and great Rewards were promised afterwards when the work should be done. (1.) *Irish* Ruffians were employed to murder the King when he went last to *Windsor*, by such ways and means as they could. (2.) *Coigdi's* and *Anderson*, two *Benedictine* Monks, were suborn'd to stab the King. (3.) *Grove*, otherwise called honest *William*, and *Pickering* undertook to shoot the King. (4.) Sir *George Wakeman*, the Queens physician, was contracted with to poyson the King, for which he should have had 15000 l. 5000 l. of which was paid in part by *Coleman*, and in the presence of Dr. *Fogarty* an *Irish*-man.

They concluded to use the Name and Interest of the Duke of *York*, if he would comply with them. (1.) To accept of the three Kingdoms as a Gift from the pope, and hold them in Fee of him. (2.) If he would confirm their settlement of Church and State. (3.) If he would exterminate all Protestants. (4.) If he would pardon the Murderers of his Brother, the Murderers of the people, and those who should fire the remaining part of the City and Suburbs.

How bloody the Execution of this plot must needs have been cannot easily be imagined, nor how miserable the remaining part of the poor people and Children left alive must have been, cannot be conceived. No places in the World are so miserably enslaved under the worst of Tyrants, as those who live within the Verge of S. *Peter's* Patrimony, which must have been the State of *ENGLAND*.

As for *IRELAND*, the Pope had made the Titular Arch-Bishop of *Dublin*, his Legate, to take possession of that Kingdom in his name. *Talbot* his Brother was made General of all the Forces in *Ireland*. The Duke of *Ormond* was to be murdered, and then the *Irish* were to rise, and form an Army of 5000 Horse, and 20000 Foot, and to murder the Protestants as they did before. This they call, *Zeal for the Roman Catholick Religion*. To enable the *Irish* to this, the pope contributed 800000 Crowns, the *French* had already sent over some supplies, and had promised a further seasonable supply of Arms, Men, and Money, so soon as they should be in Action. *Le Chese* had a great influence in all these Transactions.

As for *SCOTLAND*, the great design of the *Jesuits* was to raise a Rebellion there; to this end they divers times sent over several *Jesuits* to mingle themselves, if they could, with the Dissenters, so as they might preach in their field Meetings, and encourage them to take Arms, to vindicate their Religion and Liberty against Duke *Lauderdale's* Tyranny, and also the Tyranny of the Bishops, as they term it. The *Papists* were to raise an Army of 8000 Men to joyn with the Dissenters, lest they might have been suppressed by Duke *Lauderdale*.

As to *HOLLAND*, they have lent over twelve Messengers at once set to sow dissension between the prince of *Orange* and the States, which in the *Low-Countries* party go under the name of Fifth Monarchy-Men.

To these things may be added the firing of *London* upon design by the *Jesuits* in *Sept.* 1666. which should have been burnt sooner, but they could not get persons and things ready for Execution, the persons that were employed, the place where they met to consult, the manner how these eight persons Executed at *Tyburn* in *April* before, were drawn in, and afterwards betrayed by them, were all inclined to the Parliament. Where note, the Gazette in *April* 1666. tells the World that eight persons were Executed at *Tyburn* for designing to burn the City, the 3d of *Sept.* following, only as a colour of that Wicked Act they intended to commit, that it might be cast upon the *Fanatiks*, whose Interest was, all the World knows, to preserve this place for a shelter and hiding place to them. *Richard Strange*, a *Jesuit*, sometimes Provincial of that Society, did inform this, whose Information and the Execution do very well agree together. The Society of *Jesuits* employed *Grove* and three *Irish* Ruffians procured by Dr. *Fogarty* to fire *Deptford*, for which they had 1000 l. that is, *Grove* had 400 l. and the *Irish* Ruffians had 200 l. a-piece, and yet the Society got by the Bargain, for whilest the Fire rages they have their Instruments to plunder houses, and steal what Goods they can, which they carry to their Ware-houses in *Wild-street*, and *Somerset-House*. In the firing of *Southwark* they got 1000 l. in the burning of *London* they got 14000 l. as *Strange* the *Jesuit* confessed. The Society of *Jesuits* designed lately to burn *Westminster*, *Wapping*, and the remote parts of the Suburbs. *Blundel* a *Jesuite*, had his post at *Wapping*, where he began his work, but the Fire was by God's mercy prevented in other places. That this was done upon design is evident, for it was fore-told upon Oath 12 days before, that such a day *Wapping* should be set on Fire, as it came to pass. This *Blundel* is the *Jesuits* Ordinary at *Newgate*, where he endeavours to pervert the Prisoners condemned, by promising them pardon, and feeding them with hopes of Transportation, those whom he finds Wicked enough for his purpose, he entertains in his Service.

At present it is necessary to give this short Account to satisfie the World, because, notwithstanding the Votes of both houses of Parliament, that they were satisfied with the Information given them, that there was a Plot to murder the King, alter the Government, and subvert Religion established by Law, the *Papists* impudently deny the thing, or extenuate it, that very few were concerned in it, and that it was not so bad as the World makes it. In this their impudent lying they were much confirmed and encouraged by the Office sent out by the Bishops to be used on the Fast appointed the 13th of *November* last, wherein there was no mention of this Plot; so that the people might be easily run down by the impudency of the *Papists*, that there was no Plot at all, nor design upon his Majesty's person.

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The *Papists* lay aſperſions on *Oates*'s perſon, (the firſt Diſcoverer of this Plot) that he is a debauched Fellow, turned out of the College at St. *Omers*, and doth all this out of Revenge. They ſuggeſt that his Information muſt needs be fictitious, becauſe it is improbable he ſhould come in ſo ſhort a time to a diſtinct knowledge of ſo many particulars; or if he had heard or ſeen them, that he ſhould remember them; and that if he went amongſt them, with an intent to diſcover them, why did he not do it ſooner? and laſtly they ſay it is not likely that thoſe who mingled their Blood with that of his Majeſty's beſt Proteſtant Subjects in the late Wars, ſhould now, as one Man, have the leaſt thoughts of murdering the King they had fought for, and deſtroy the liberty of the Nation they had vindicated with their lives; theſe inſinuations ſeem plauſible, but when we look into them, we ſhall find they are either palpably falſe or frivolous.

As to *Titus Oates*'s Education, he was bred a Student in S. *John*'s College in *Cambridge*; that he is a Scholar appears by his proceeding Doctor in Divinity in *Salamanca* in *Spain*, no mean Univerſity, where he did all his Exerciſe, more difficult than that performed by us here. He was ſometimes Miniſter at *Chichester*, and at laſt Chaplain to the Duke of *Norfolk*. In all theſe Stations he was a perſon of a ſober life and Converſation, and never charged with Debauchery, and dares appeal to the *Jeſuits* themſelves in this particular, who would never have eſteemed him ſo much, nor truſted him ſo far, had they not found him a ſober man, and fit for their purpoſe.

When he was the Duke of *Norfolk*'s Chaplain, he over-heard ſome whiſperings among the Prieſts, that there was ſome great Deſign on foot, but could not learn what it was. He had heard from his Proteſtant Friends, and had read in Sir *Hammond L'Eſtrange*'s Hiſtory of King *Charles* the Firſt, that the *Papiſts* had carryed on a Deſign for many years to introduce *Popery* again into theſe Nations, which created in him an itching deſire to ſee the depth of it, and if it were poſſible to countermine it; to this end he ſeemed to ſome Prieſts as if he were diſſatisfied in ſome things, as to our Church, and deſired an opportunity to diſcourſe with ſome of their *Jeſuits*, which the Prieſts procured, upon this condition, that he would not betray them. After ſundry Conferences with them, in which he ſuffered himſelf to be overcome, he was formally reconciled to the Church of *Rome*; after his Reconciliation he begged the Fathers of the *Jeſuits* that they would give him their Order, which was granted him after three days conſideration. They then told him, becauſe he was a Man of years, being about 28, they would not employ him as uſually they did Novices, in drudgery for the firſt two years, but he ſhould ſpend that time in being a Meſſenger for their Society. This exactly fitted his deſign, ſo that he was ſent with Letters into *Spain*, thoſe he opened, and by them began to ſmell ſomething of their Helliſh Deſigns, and managed his buſineſs ſo dexterouſly, that after a little time he was taken into their Conſult, as they call it, and ſo had an opportunity to ſee all that was acting at the preſent, and liberty, without ſuſpicion, to enquire how any thing paſt had been carryed on; more particularly he made it his buſineſs to inform himſelf of the beginning, progreſs, and concluſion of the late Wars, in all which he found the *Jeſuits* had a great hand. By this means he underſtood that the City was fired by their contrivance, and was told how the Plot was laid, and who were the Actors in the ſeveral Scenes of it, which he might confidently believe, becauſe he ſaw how they burnt *Southwark*, and deſigned to burn the *Temple*, *Weſtminſter*, and the reſt of the Suburbs. He kept ſhort Notes of all things of moment that occurred from the time he was admitted into their Society, with an intent to produce them when they might be of uſe; by this means he is able to give ſo exact an account of all occurrences, which are confirmed by other Circumſtances and Collateral Evidence, that in many hundred particulars no one thing hath interfered with another, nor with thoſe Papers that have been found elſewhere, or with thoſe Informations that have been given in by other perſons. For Inſtance, He informs that *Colman* was a great Agent in this buſineſs. Letters found inform the ſame. He informs that he delivered Commiſſions received from *Langhorn*, Letters intercepted make mention of Commiſſions ſent, which they hope were delivered. In ſhort, it was impoſſible that a Man ſhould contrive ſuch a thing, attended with ſo many hundreds, nay ſome thouſands of Circumſtances, and comparing them with ſo many Papers, Informations, and Examinations of ſo many other Men, but they would interfere one with another if they were falſe, therefore it may be concluded the whole is true, till ſomething be found to the contrary, and then it will follow that this is the moſt Bloody, Deviliſh, and Helliſh deſign that ever was contrived. The Maſſacre in *France*, though very barbarous; The Maſſacre in *Ireland*, though very bloody; The Invaſion intended in 88; The Gun-Powder-Treaſon, were inferior to this, which ſhould immediately have ſpread it ſelf over ſo many Kingdoms.

That propoſition made in Parliament to Impriſon all the Prieſts and *Jeſuits* that can be found in the three Kingdoms, and to ſecure the Principal *Papiſts* in his Majeſties Dominions, to be kept as Hoſtages for his Majeſties life, ſeems not unreaſonable. It is eſſential to the *Popiſh* Religion, (founded upon the *Pope*'s Supremacy and Infallibility) that all *Papiſts* do own a Foreign Allegiance, namely, to the Pope; the Oath of Supremacy is Diametrically oppoſite to the Popiſh Religion, whoever takes that Oath, and is a Papiſt ſtill, in theſe two fundamental points, debauches his Conſcience, and muſt do all the Pope bids him *in ordine ad ſpiritualia* notwithſtanding. When the Pope condemns any for *Hereſie*, (as is our Caſe now) all *Papiſts* are bound as *Papiſts*, to deſtroy ſuch when it is commanded; this is not only their Duty, but it is meritorious ſo to do, as the *Papiſts* did believe it in our intended Maſſacre. So that they are our inveterate, irreconciliable, profeſt Enemies, and would have declared themſelves ſo, had they not been prevented by Gods mercy in preſerving the Kings life, and the ſeaſonable diſcovery of the Plot. Though they

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are not in open Hostility, they lurk in secret, and ought to be lookt upon as Spyes, and by the Law of Nations may be used as such, then, if instead of present death, which all Spyes deserve, their Priests and *Jesuits*, and Principal Laity are imprisoned, and there kept, not to be Executed, unless their Confederates abroad exert their Wicked Principles, and put them in Execution, by murdering our King, burning our Houses, and imbroiling the Nation in *Blood*, this seems to be no piece of Injustice.

As to the time of *Oates*'s discovery of the Plot, if on the first intimation of the *Papists* design he had made a discovery of it, probably he had been rejected, because he could not make out the particulars, as now he doth. He hath been hardly received since, and therefore would in all likelyhood have been rejected then. Further, He had not the Command of himself, when he engaged in their Society; had he moved any way without, or contrary to their Order, he had presently been suspected, and might easily have been found out; as soon as he was sent from S. *Omers* into *England*, and had an opportunity, he did shew his real intentions to preserve his Majesty's Person, and his Native Country from their *Romish* Enemies, the safety of which depended solely upon his Information, which for ought we see must otherwise have been a Prey to them.

As to the *Papists* assisting King *Charles* the First in the late Wars, the violence of the people forced them to that side, where they did as much hurt to his Majesty, by the scandal they brought to his Party, as they did good by their Arms. For they were the Cause of that War, and it mattered not much what side they were on, so that their Design might go forward: They were the main Men which brought the King's Head to the Block. Monsieur *Du Moulin*, in print, hath offered to make good all these things, but was never called to it; he is yet living, a Man of Reputation, who doubtless will make good his word.

To conclude, This is such a plain Discovery of the Roguery and Villany of the *Papists*, as hath not been made since *England* departed from the Church of *Rome*. It is hoped that all poor, deluded persons, now they see such things they could never have believed essential to the *Romish* Religion, will renounce their Forreign Allegiance to so Devillish a Master as the Pope is, and return to the Church of *England*, and free themselves from those impending troubles which will justly and necessarily come upon them; in the suffering of which they can have no comfort. Persons that will retain (after all means used to satisfie them) such Hellish Principles as the *Papists* do, ought either wholly to be rooted out from all Mankind, or to be put into such a condidition, under such Circumstances, that they can do no hurt. As for such as shall be obstinate in their Irreligion, and maintain a resolution to destroy all *Hereticks*, that is Protestants, as soon as they can, it seems not unreasonable to take Hostages of them for securing of the King's life and Kingdoms peace, which can be secured no other way but by putting things into such a posture, that the *Papists* shall presently lose much by the King's death, and get no advantage afterwards by his Successors; which must be left to the wisdom of Parliament. The Candour of the Protestants is such, that no violence or affront hath been offered to any *Papists*, though the Protestants see their Houses so frequently fired by their means, and are sure this plot was laid by them, and should have been put in Execution so soon as they had accomplisht their Treason upon the King's person.

Though the pressure should fall upon the *Papists* in general, when it may be presumed many are innocent, there may be this offered in the case, that few *Papists* have made any discovery, though many, yea most of the Principal *Papists* in *England* have been acquainted with it; so that all the rest seem to be guilty either *à parte ante*, by consenting to it, and intending to act in it, or *à parte post*, by denying, approving, concealing, extenuating, and mincing of it.

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